**Amendment to the Claims:**

1. (Original) A method of synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval,
- providing a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval,
- appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval,
- appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval,
- superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, whereby the end and front intervals have approximately steady periods.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2, the end and front intervals being identified by a marker.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ whereby the last period of the end interval and the first period of the front interval are not appended.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4,~~ further comprising windowing of the end and/or fade-out intervals with a fade-out window.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, whereby a raised cosine is used as a fade-out window.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, whereby the following window function is used for voiced intervals:

where m is the total number of periods in a smoothening range.

$$w[n] = 0.5 - 0.5 \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi \cdot (n+0.5)}{m}\right), \qquad 0 \le n < m$$

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, whereby a sine window is used as a fade-out window for unvoiced intervals.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, whereby the following window function is used:

$$w[n] = \sin\left(\frac{0.5 \cdot \pi \cdot (n+0.5)}{m}\right), \qquad 0 \le n < m \qquad (2.7)$$

where m is the total number of periods in a smoothening range.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 9~~, the first and second speech units being diphones and/or triphones and/or polyphones, in particular words.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 10~~, further comprising adapting the durations of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals.

12. (Currently amended) The method ~~methods~~ of claim 1, ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to11~~ whereby the speech signal is synthesized by means of an overlap and add operation.

13. (Original) Computer program product, in particular, digital storage medium, comprising program means for synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the program means being adapted to perform the steps of:

- providing a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval,
- providing a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval,
- appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval,
- appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval,
- superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals.

14. (Original) Computer system, in particular text-to-speech system, for synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the computer system comprising:

- means (402) for storing of a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval, and for storing of a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval,
- means (404) for appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval (202; 300) in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval (204; 302),
- means (404) for appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval (208; 306) in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval (308),
- means (410) for superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals.